

Testimony of JANIS DAVIS, NORWICH, CT

concerning Residential Care Funding in
H.B. No. 6824 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE.

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Flexer, Representative Abercrombie and Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services, my name is Janis Davis and I am Vice President of Eldercare at United Community and Family Services in Norwich. I am providing testimony about residential care home rates and specifically our opposition to the continual flat funding of our rates.

Residential Care Homes are a low-cost alternative to nursing homes. Unfortunately, over the last few years reimbursement rates have been largely frozen or minimally adjusted. As a result, costs continue to outpace the expense of providing the quality of care that the vulnerable, elderly patients served by my program, Sheltering Arms, deserve. Sheltering Arms provides a home-like environment, medication administration, personal care assistance, all meals, recreation, mental stimulation, social interaction and a myriad other benefits. Our clients need assistance and supervision. They cannot live on their own.

As a result of years of inadequate funding, we have had to keep expenses to the bare minimum. This compromises continuity of care for clients, especially those with cognitive impairments. The future of our program is in jeopardy. Costs, such as food, supplies, insurance and payroll continue to rise. We have nothing left to cut to continue filling the gap between cost and reimbursement.

I hope you will reconsider this proposal. It will ultimately cost the state more as clients better served by programs like ours end up with nursing homes as their only option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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